

REMARKS

Amendments to the Claims

The Applicants respectfully ask the Examiner to replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application with the listing of claims currently provided. Claims 1-3 and 13-24 were amended; and Claim 25 is new.

Restriction Requirement

The Examiner has restricted the present application under 35 U.S.C. §121 as allegedly disclosing 2 independent and distinct inventions designated Group I (Claims 1-11 and 25) and II (Claims 12-24). The Applicants elect to prosecute Examiner's Group I (Claims 1-11 and 25).

The Examiner has further restricted Group I under 35 U.S.C. §121 as allegedly disclosing species of such diverged subject matter that separate unique searches are required and has designated these embodiments as Group A (an antibody able to selectively bind said polypeptide), Group B (a competitive inhibitor of said polypeptide), Group C (a compound able to selectively prevent the expression of a gene encoding said polypeptide), Group D (a binding protein other than an antibody), Group E (a ribozyme) and Group F (a nucleic acid encoding an inactive growth factor receptor able to bind said growth). The Applicants elect to prosecute Examiner's Group D (a binding protein other than an antibody).

The Examiner has further restricted Group I under 35 U.S.C. §121 as allegedly disclosing species of such diverged subject matter that separate unique searches are required and has designated these embodiments as Group A (IGF I), Group B (IGFII), Group C (CNTF), Group D (NT-3), Group E (NT-4), Group F (BDGF), Group G (LIF), Group H (Tenacin-C), Group I (Ninjurin), Group J (N-CAM) and Group K (N-agrin). The Applicants elect to prosecute Examiner's Group A (IGF I).

CONCLUSION

For the above reasons the Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance, and the Applicants respectfully urge the Examiner to issue a Notice to that effect. Should there be any questions, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned agent. Please use Deposit Account 01-0885 for the payment of any extension of time fees under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 or any other fees due in connection with the current response.

Respectfully submitted,

/Dean G. Stathakis/

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